



Field test of a reliable and easy to use microLFR based nutrient sensor package for Ferrybox on-line monitoring applications

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New features:







- Teflon sealed hydraulics
- Lower reagents consumption enables longer unattended operation
- Smaller reagents volume -> internal reagents cooling for longer unattended operation



Trans National Action, Jerico-NEXT project Easy On-Line microLFA

Field long term test of
n.3 biparametric sequential Micromac-1000
on-line analyzers:
1. NH₃ (fluo) and PO₄ (fluo)
2. NO₂ and NO₃+NO₂
3. PO₄ and SiO₂

on board of Color Fantasy Ferrybox

Field test supported by: Norsk institutt for vannforskning







Nutrient instrumental configuration for Ferrybox systems

Micromac-1000 NH₃ & PO₄

- NH₃ by OPA fluorimetric method, cal. range 0-100 μg/L as N, MDL < 1.2 μg/L, measurement time (mt) 15 minutes
- PO₄ by Rhodamine 6G + Molybdate fluor. method, cal. range 0-100 μ g/L as P, MDL < 3.5 μ g/L, mt = 21 min

Micromac-1000 MP2 NO₂ & NO_x

- NO₂ by NED-SAA colorimetric method, range 0-50 μg/L as N, MDL < 0.4 μg/L, mt = 13 min
- $NO_2 + NO_3$ by VCI3 red. and NED-SAA col. method, cal. range 0-350 µg/L as N, MDL < 2.5 µg/L, mt = 17 min

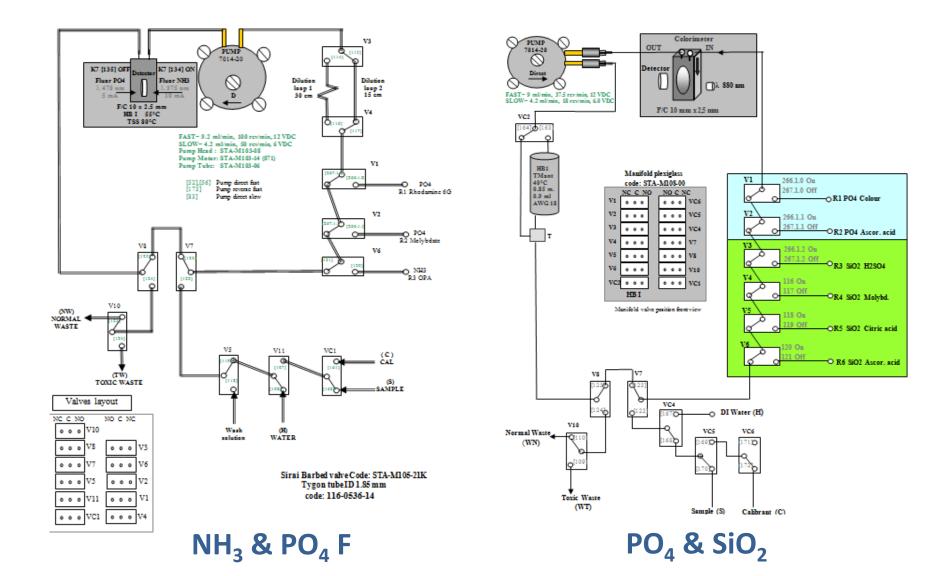
Micromac-1000 MP2 PO₄ & SiO₂

- PO₄ by Molibdenum blue colorimetric method, cal. range 0-100 μ g/L as P, MDL < 1.1 μ g/L, mt = 15 min
- SiO₂ by Meta-Molibdenum col. method, cal. range 0-300 μg/L as SiO₂, MDL < 3.5 μg/L = 21 min

MDL calculated as 3 * calculated std dev on 7 repetitions at 10% F.S.



µLoop Flow Reactor hydraulic diagrams





Reagents consumption for each analysis

Parameter	Reagent 1/3 (µL)	Reagent 2/4 (µL)	DI water (mL)
NH ₃	70	70	25
PO ₄ fluo	140 70	140 70	25
NO ₂	70	70	10
NO _X	140 280	140	10
PO ₄	70	70	25
SiO ₂	140 70	140 70	25





Ferrybox installation











Ferrybox operations

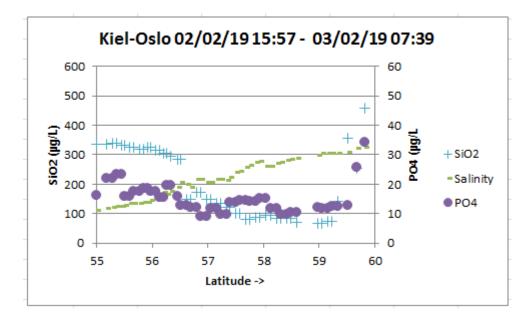
- Reagents and distilled water refilled approximately ~1-2x per month
- Data saved from Micromacs to FerryBox PC and correlated with GPS data + temperature and salinity
- Data transferred via satellite internet to FTP server at NIVA
- 27 discrete nutrient samples collected on 26-27 February and 8-10 April 2019 for lab analysis comparison





PO₄ & SiO₂ first collected data

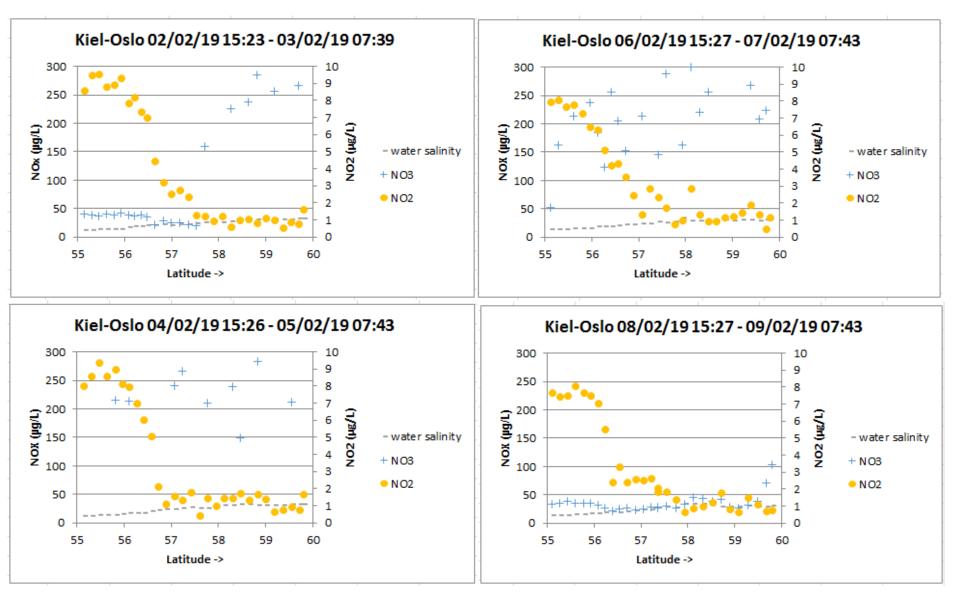
Oslo - Kiel 01/02/19 13:31 - 02/02/19 05:36 sio2 (µg/L) Po4 (µg/l +SiO2 Salinity PO4 <- Latitude





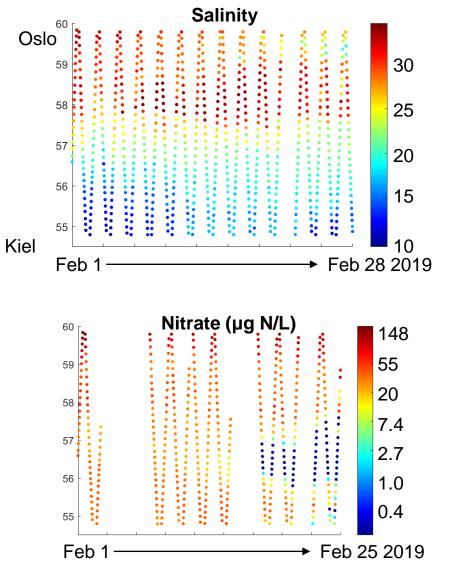


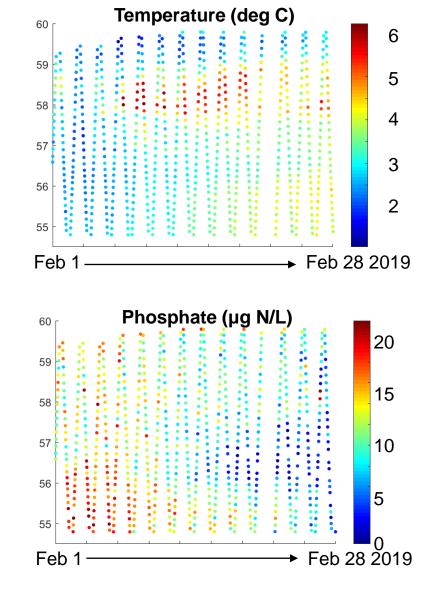
NO₂ trend repeatibility along consecutive Kiel -> Oslo trips





Nutrients in relation to S and T

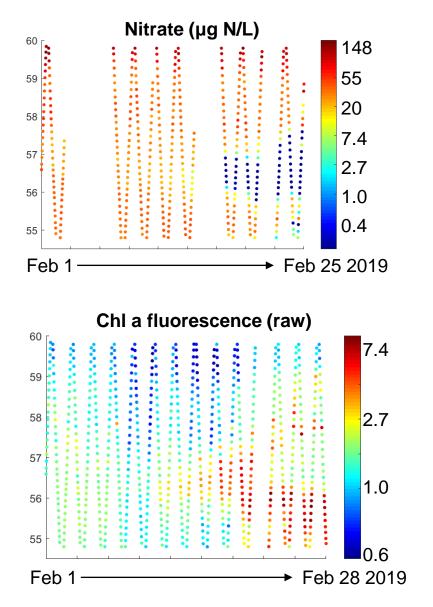


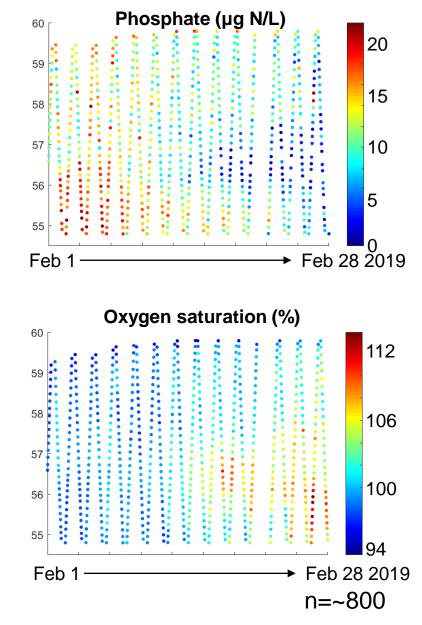


n=~800



Nutrients in relation to chl a







Positive control check after 2.5 months of operation^{*}

Parameter	Standard (µg/L)	Value (µg/L)	% change
NH ₃	100	80	-20%
NO ₂	50	47.5	-5%
NO ₃	350	260	-25,7%
PO ₄	100	82	-18%
SiO ₂	300		

* Without any recalibration Reagents refilled 7 March Control check on 12 April



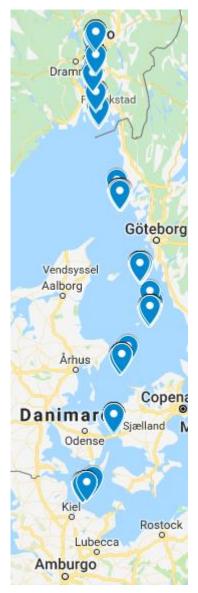




Water samplings and laboratory measurements

- Some of the samples were collected manually during the trip and preserved directly adding 1 mL H₂SO₄/100 mL of water sample
- When automatic sampling were done, water samples were preserved in Oslo harbour
- Preserved samples were measured in lab all together using a Skalar CFA analyzer on 15 April.

Anyway, no cross check measurements on the collected water samples were done using Micromac analyzers.





Technical discussion



Issue	Action done
Data storage every minutes didn't allow	Data filtration by Excel macro.
an easy and direct data interpretation	NIVA's data-logger protocol update
and evaluation	to store only real measured data
SiO ₂ missing data after 15 days of operation, due to the use of an alternative reagent generated crystals blocking reagent and sampling line	Use of the right reagent as requested by the standard method
PO ₄ fluo collected too high	DI water consumption to be
concentrations due to missing DI water	minimized by measurement cycle
generated false ODS values	update and internal control check
Missing correlation between PO ₄ fluo	Planned on board activity in 2 nd week
and PO ₄ colo data	of May to cross check the issue
NOx too high values over some periods	Planned on board activity in 2 nd week od May to cross check the issue



Technical discussion (2)



Issue	Action done	
Missing automatic positive controls even if on board standards were available	SW improvement in NIVA data-logger to perform automatic positive controls along the trip	
Missing periodic recalibration of the analyzers	To be done manually in harbour based on results of positive control checks	
Missing written procedure to perform on board maintenance	Written procedure was defined and started to be tested on board	
Difficulty to correlate GPS position of collected water samples with on-line nutrients data, due to continuous sample flow in the Ferrybox	Installation of a storage tank to be updated periodically, where the same sample from Micromac and lab water sample have to be collected	
Difficulty of cross comparison between lab and on-line measurements	Lab samples will be measured again on Micromac analyzers, when the Ferrybox is stopped in Oslo using the grab sample function.	





- Easy installation and start-up was performed on site in two days
- 2,5 months of acquired unattended data with very good reagents stability, even if some issues were reported on collected data
- Planned joint on board activity to solve the PO₄ fluo and NO_x pending issues on 2nd week of May
- Automatic positive controls have to be activated by NIVA datalogger, to support on board validation of the collected data
- Collected water samples will have to be measured on Micromac analyzers when the Ferrybox will be stopped in Oslo
- Field test will go on further until end of June 2019
- User manual and technical training to be improved, to allow a reliable independent use from the very beginning
- Strict management procedure is required to manage properly long term unattended analysis.